



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/

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Contact: Karen Szczepanski
517-373-2420

Sen. Garcia urges use of child restraint seats during Child Passenger Safety Week

Lansing – As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 8-14, Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell, encourages parents to keep their children safe while traveling.

“There is nothing more important than the health and safety of our children,” Garcia said. “It cannot be said enough how proper use of child safety seats helps to save lives and prevent serious injury.”

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children age 0-15 according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 children age 0-15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

Child restraint seats are one of the best ways to protect children on the road. Garcia offers parents and child caregivers these safety reminders:

- Face infant seats to the rear in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.
- Face safety seats forward in the back seat from age 1 to about age 4 and 20 to 40 pounds.
- Place booster seats in the back seat from about age 4 and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4, feet 9 inches tall.
- Use safety belts at age 8 or older, or taller than 4 feet, 9 inches tall. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.
- Buckle up! Children learn by example.

Child Passenger Safety Week is a national effort to tout the benefits of child safety seats on every trip, every time. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

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